Condition of Tourist Places in Eastern and Northern India

†93. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist places situated in eastern and northern part of India are in poor condition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Jain and Buddhist historical places in such areas are being neglected much more; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the excavation work of Nalanda University is still incomplete?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The centrally protected monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India are duly maintained under the archaeological norms and practices. As regards other tourist places, it is the responsibility of the State Government under whose charge they are to maintain them. However, the Government extends central financial assistance for improving facilities in such tourist places.

(b) All the protected Jain monuments and the Buddhist historical places are duly looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government.

(c) No archaeological site is excavated fully by the Archaeological Survey of India. Part of a site is always left for future investigation and research.

Proposal to Beautify Ayodhya

94. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to beautify the pilgrimage town of Ayodhya in U.P. (outside the disputed area) to attract domestic and international tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the nature of beautification proposed, the funds allocated for the purpose and time required to complete the works?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.